

loans to increase their loan amount to reach that level) for firms that have suffered significant revenue losses as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency;

Increase the amount that can be spent on non-payroll expenses for firms that have suffered significant revenue losses as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency;

Expand eligibility as follows:

Expressly provide that health care entities, such as quasi-governmental Critical Access Hospitals and other rural health care providers, are eligible to participate in the program;

Include certain nonprofits who should not have been excluded in the first place, subject to the applicable affiliation rules;

Expand the exception to the 500-employee limitation for franchises, which is contained in the Small Business Administration (SBA) guidance, to include franchised businesses beyond those listed in the SBA's franchise listing; and

Expand the affiliation rule exception to include more firms that, for all intents and purposes have fewer than 500 employees, such as fitness centers and retail trade establishments.

Expressly provide that, following the recently-issued SBA guidance regarding distributions from partnerships and LLCs (up to \$100,000 annualized), existing PPP loans that excluded such payments may increase their loan amounts accordingly;

Add the following to list of qualified expenses: mortgage principal payments in accordance with previously-established amortization schedules (no pre-payments), inventory expenses in advance of re-opening businesses, and past-due inventory invoices;

Expressly provide that businesses can participate in both the PPP and EIDL loans, provided that funds are not spent on the same expenses;

Set aside PPP funding to support our smallest businesses; as well as minority-, veteran-, women-owned, and other underserved businesses that may not have an existing business banking relationship;

Expressly provide that Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) are authorized lenders under the program;

Authorize the Treasury Department, the Federal Reserve, and/or the SBA to purchase program loans for borrowers with 50 or more employees from the originating banks two weeks after origination; and authorize the appropriate entity purchase program loans for businesses with less than 50 employees immediately after origination; and

Ensure that small agricultural producers who employ individuals under the H-2A program can have their payroll expenses count for loan forgiveness purposes.

In addition to the PPP modifications, the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) Program that was included in the CARES Act has been oversubscribed. The intended goal was to have these loans paired with the PPP in order to provide businesses a greater amount of liquidity. It has been clear in our communications across the state that the program is oversubscribed and EIDL needs significantly more funding and improved efficiency to get the funding more quickly into the economy. The CARES Act required EIDL advances of up to \$10,000 per loan to be delivered immediately, but the oversubscription has caused the SBA to limit the amount of those advances and they have been slow in arriving. EIDL borrowers simply cannot wait for weeks for approval on minimal advances. We must make sure the program is fully funded so it can be useful for businesses.

We must also work to provide health care providers, both those on the frontlines and those struggling with lost revenue, the support they need. We request additional fund-

ing through the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund (PHSSEF) to support hospitals and health care providers in the next phase of legislation. We must also ensure that there is a transparent and evidence-based process in place to provide relief to rural hospitals and health clinics, Medicaid providers, including home and community-based services providers, children's hospitals, nursing homes, providers treating undocumented patients, and safety net hospitals and clinics who provide critical, life-saving care to underserved populations and were not addressed in the Department of Health and Human Service's initial \$30 billion tranche of funding from the CARES Act.

Further, state and local governments and tribes are on the front lines of responding to the crisis. The CARES Act included \$150 billion for these entities from the Coronavirus Relief Fund and tens of billions of additional support for education and housing needs. In addition to direct federal support for education, housing, and public health needs, it is critical that Congress provide an additional \$500 billion in flexible fiscal relief to states and hundreds of billions of additional support directly to local governments without population thresholds and with the flexibility to fill major revenue shortfalls. We request robust funding to ensure further flexible relief in the next legislative response. In fact, any interim agreement between the leaders must include this critical state and local funding.

Lastly, we are deeply disturbed by the severe deprivation so many families are experiencing, manifested in scenes of hours-long lines at food banks across the country. To alleviate some of the pressure on the hardest-hit families, we support increasing overall SNAP benefits by 15% and continuing that increase until the public health crisis has ended and the economy has returned to pre-crisis conditions, along with other reforms to SNAP to cut red tape and expand access to nutritional assistance.

Colorado is representative of America. We have remote rural communities and large urban areas. We depend on the agriculture industry, but we also have some of the most cutting-edge technology companies in the world. We are known for our restaurants, hotels, and outdoor recreation. Those industries are supported by countless plumbers, electricians, and contractors. And like America, we have our differences, but above all, Coloradans are pragmatic—we do what works. The ideas laid out in this letter reflect what Coloradans have told us is needed to make these programs work. We should waste no time in adopting them.

We thank you for your work on behalf of the American public. We believe that we share the common goals of keeping thousands of small businesses across Colorado and the nation with the ability to retain as many workers as they can, our hospitals and health care providers equipped with what they need, and state and local governments and tribes with the ability to respond during this pandemic. Should you require additional information on these suggestions, our staffs are able to further discuss. As you negotiate the next federal response, we respectfully request you include these modifications to the CARES Act and additional requests in mind.

Sincerely,

CORY GARDNER,
United States Senator.
MICHAEL F. BENNET,
United States Senator.
JARED POLIS,
Governor of Colorado.

Mr. GARDNER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the Senate vote on confirmation of the Jarbou, Cullen, and Gujarati nominations, in that order, at 11:30 a.m. tomorrow and that the cloture motion with respect to the motion to concur with amendment No. 2652 to the House amendment to S. 178 ripen following the disposition of the Gujarati nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING KATHY BROWN

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to remember one of Wyoming's most accomplished and beloved journalists. On Wednesday, August 12, 2020, Kathleen "Kathy" Suzanne Brown passed away at the age of 64. In her nearly 40 years as a reporter at the Gillette News Record, Kathy had a profound impact on communities across northeast Wyoming.

Kathy spent more than 20 years of her time at the News Record as a sports reporter. She was notably the only female sports reporter in the State for most of that time. Kathy was known for being an extremely thorough reporter. She went above and beyond to profile a majority of Campbell County's student athletes, whether or not they were the star player.

When Kathy transitioned to being an education reporter in 2012, I often had the privilege of speaking with her on my regular visits to classrooms around Gillette. Kathy was a true professional, and it was abundantly clear how much she cared for the students she wrote about.

Her dedication to journalistic excellence was recognized statewide on multiple occasions. One of the biggest highlights of her career came in 2016, when the Wyoming Press Association named her its Veteran Journalist of the Year. Kathy was also recognized by the Campbell County School District, the Energy Classic Committee, the Wyoming Education Association, and the Wyoming Historical Society for her excellent work.

While her passing leaves a huge void in the Wyoming journalism community, her legacy lives on through her more than four decades long record of compelling and insightful stories.

Bobbi and I send our deepest condolences to Kathy's mother, Shirley

Brown; brothers, Tim, Ben, and John, as well as her newspaper family at the Gillette News Record.

On August 14, 2020, Gillette News Record publisher and editor Ann Turner published a moving tribute to Kathy on behalf of the entire News Record staff who knew Kathy best. Ann's sentiments are shared by so many in Gillette and Wyoming's journalism community. I ask unanimous consent that this article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Gillette News Record, August 14, 2020]

LONGTIME NR REPORTER KATHY BROWN DIES
(By Ann Turner)

Few people in a community have the privilege of intersecting with so many lives as a reporter.

No one in Gillette has done it recently as long and as well as Kathy Brown, who was a reporter for the News Record for 37 years.

"KB," as we called her, died Wednesday night in Casper at the Central Wyoming Hospice and Transitions of complications from cancer, a disease she had valiantly fought for the past 13 months. She was 64.

She had retired from the News Record in March after working as a journalist for 41 years.

In a perfect world, there would have been a proper send-off, a party or an open house to properly acknowledge the decades that she devoted to this community. Instead, we faced a national shutdown aimed at protecting everyone from the COVID-19 pandemic, but particularly those like KB whose health was compromised by cancer and the chemotherapy she undertook to try to beat it.

She restarted the chemo after a much-too-short remission and was bound and determined to beat it.

In a perfect world, she would have beat it. In a perfect world, there would have been more stories that she could have written about all of you, her favorite people. In a perfect world, she would have enjoyed her retirement.

But the world is not perfect.

Today, we honor her with a front-page obituary, not because she would have wanted it—indeed she would have been appalled at the attention.

We do so because she deserves it.

In Gillette, she spent more than 20 years as a sports reporter, and in those years covered thousands of young athletes in the school system as well as younger and older ones in different athletic pursuits.

Kathy was the sole sports reporter at the News Record—and the only female sports reporter in the state—for most of that time. No one worked longer and harder than she did because she was committed not just to her job, but to the kids.

She made an effort to talk to every single athlete on a team—not just the stars, but every single one. She tried to make sure that they appeared in a story over the course of a season because she believed that each one of them deserved attention as part of the team. Each athlete, competing alone or on a team, had a story that deserved to be told.

A criticism that haunted her most would be those that came from some disgruntled parent who thought she was giving one player too much attention. In sports coverage, it's hard to ignore the stars. But her admiration often was focused on those whose efforts were just as noteworthy, if not as splashy.

"Always talk to those involved in events, not just a coach or teacher," she wrote in notes she handed out to younger journalists who wanted to listen to her advice. "You can use the coach or teacher's comments to build on what you're writing, but the athletes or the students are the ones who are involved in it. They have a lot to say, too, and shouldn't be ignored."

In 2012, she moved from the sports beat to education and the community section. The move was made for health reasons, but she ended up working just as hard covering those beats as she did sports.

She was a prolific writer and still holds the byline record at the News Record. There was never a topic too small, but there were some that she could write reams about, usually involving her love of history, particularly local or Western history.

She once decided to write about the Pumpkin Buttes, a story that originally was supposed to anchor the front page.

She wrote so much that it ended up being a special section.

That was true of the Recreation Center when it opened 10 years ago. The story was supposed to be a comprehensive look at what the new facility was like.

It ended up being a 28-page special section with multiple stories, all written in a very short amount of time by KB.

In both of those cases, just like with most stories she wrote, she approached them with an enthusiasm that is rare.

"I'm sucking the life out of this interview in three different ways," she once said about an interview with one of the National High School Finals Rodeo contestants.

She loved journalism because no two days are alike. "Every day is a new adventure," she said in 2017.

She also loved it because it put her smack-dab in the middle of people and their stories, which is where she liked to be.

"I really feel it's a privilege to cover the stories of the people in Campbell County and to be able to tell about their lives," she said.

She has been honored many times for her reporting and her leadership. Three years ago, she was chosen as Veteran Journalist of the Year by the Wyoming Press Association, an occasion that made her reflect on her career, as well as to find humor in the "veteran" part of the name.

"Heck," she said. "It's just one for old farts."

"I want to tell the stories we all want to read—the important ones that teach us about life, ourselves and our community at the same time," she said at the time. "No one else can tell the story of a community as well as a newspaper, so it's a service to a community and a calling to those of us on the job."

It was her humility that made her sum up the award by saying, "I guess it means I'm doing OK at the job."

That prompted a reply from frequent letter writer Brad Schofield.

"In my opinion, the ability to 'write and relate' is not only a gift she has shared and worked so hard to achieve, it is a dedication to a life of serving a people and a community she obviously loves and respects," he wrote.

A newspaper contest judge once called KB "a consummate pro." And she was. People in Gillette were lucky to have her on their side for 37 years.

We were even luckier to be able to call her a colleague. Even more so a friend.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING MORGAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

● Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Morgan Community

College in celebration of its 50th anniversary. Since the first day of class in 1970, Morgan Community College has prepared students from all walks of life for future success with dedication and compassion. The institution plays a critical role on the Eastern Plains of Colorado with programs that provide a strong knowledge base and serve as a springboard to future economic prosperity.

As part of its commitment to providing high-quality, affordable higher education opportunities, Morgan Community College offers an expansive assortment of over 80 courses and a variety of curriculum tracks to ensure that students are able to find an educational path that best supports their goals. Furthermore, Morgan Community College is nationally recognized for its high graduation and transfer rates into 4-year institutions, indicating its ability to serve students' unique objectives.

Morgan Community College continues to innovate and develop groundbreaking new programs to support the needs of the local communities. On August 17, 2020, the college celebrated the opening of Poplar Hall, an educational building to be utilized for the college's precision agriculture program. The development of Poplar Hall demonstrates the college's investment in and dedication towards the next generation of Colorado farmers and ranchers.

The indispensable services Morgan Community College provides to its students have been recognized on multiple occasions, earning the college a top 10 ranking in SmartAsset's 2020 Best Community Colleges in America. In addition, Morgan Community College has been continuously named a "great college to work for" by the Chronicle of Higher Education.

Morgan Community College offers immeasurable value to communities in Eastern Colorado, and the institution has a bright future. Sincerest congratulations on this 50th anniversary milestone.●

TRIBUTE TO KENDRA SMITH

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am proud to recognize Kendra Smith of Nashua as August's Granite Stater of the Month. At a time when so many are facing financial uncertainty, Kendra is selflessly working to provide substantial and popular hot meals to community members in need amid this public health and economic crisis.

Kendra has lived in Nashua for 29 years and knows her community well. As a food service assistant in New Hampshire's school system and an entrepreneur who founded a soul food cuisine catering business early last year, Kendra is exceedingly familiar with how food insecurity affects children and teenagers in Nashua.

When schools began to shut down due to COVID-19, Kendra knew that many students in her community were at